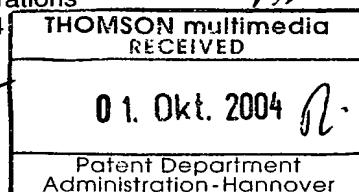


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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

30.09.2004 1 PER VS

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PF020090 ✓

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/07209

International filing date (day/month/year)
05.07.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
19.07.2002

Applicant

THOMSON LICENSING S.A.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international
preliminary examining authority:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PF020090	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/07209	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.07.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G01R31/28		
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20.01.2004	Date of completion of this report 30.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - Gitschner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840	Authorized Officer Binger, B Telephone No. +49 30 25901-617



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/07209

1) Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: FR-A-2 808 100 (GEMPLUS CARD INT) 26 October 2001 (2001-10-26)
D2: WO 01/37200 A (C SAM INC) 25 May 2001 (2001-05-25)

2) The document D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses a method and an appliance having a smart card reader for operation with a smart card. The subject-matter of claims 1 and 4 differs at least by one of the smart card contacts as a serial interface for testing the appliance.

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 4 is therefore novel (Article 33(2)PCT).

3) The problem to be solved by the present invention is to provide a method for testing of an appliance having a smart card reader for operation with a smart card, which allows to reduce the costs for the appliance and a respective appliance (page 2, lines 13-16).

4) The solution to this problem, proposed in claims 1 and 4 of the present application is considering as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because D1 is not disclosing any incentive in the direction of the invention to use one of the smart card contacts as a serial interface for testing the appliance. The further available prior art does not help in the respect either.

5) Claims 2 to 3 are dependent on claim 1 and claims 5 to 9 are dependent on claim 4, and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Article 33 (2) and (3) PCT).

New Claims 1 - 9

(Shall replace all present claims)

1. Method for testing an appliance (1) having a smart card reader (4) for an operation with a smart card by using a test adapter (2) being inserted into the smart card reader (4) for testing of the appliance (1),
5 the test adapter (2) having contacts (C1 - C8) being used as an interface to the smart card reader (4), and using a contact (C6) of the smart card reader (4) as a serial interface for testing of the appliance (1), which is not used by the appliance (1) during operation with a smart card, wherein
10 one of the smart card contacts (C6) used for testing of the appliance (1) is the smart card contact for the programming voltage VPP, said contact (C6) being used as an input for transmit signals in accordance with a RS 232 serial port.
15
2. Method according to claim 2, characterized in that the test adapter (2) is coupled via a cable (10) to a computer (3), and that as a further smart card contact (C7) for testing of the appliance (1) a contact for data in/out (C7) is used, for operation of the test adapter (2) as a serial interface in connection with the computer (3).
20
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the appliance (1) is a digital set-top box or a digital satellite receiver and the method for testing of the appliance is a Factory Functional Test or an aftersales diagnostics test.
30
- 35 4. Appliance with a smart card reader (4) for an operation with a smart card, characterized in that one contact (C6) of the smart card reader (4), which is

not used by the appliance (1) during normal operation with a smart card, is being used as a serial port for testing of the appliance (1).

5 5. Appliance according to claim 4, characterized in that one of the smart card contacts (C6) used for testing of the appliance (1) is the smart card contact for the programming voltage VPP.

10 6. Appliance according to claim 5, characterized in that the contacts used for testing of the appliance (1) are a supply voltage input (C1), the programming voltage VPP (C6), a data In/Out contact (C7) and ground (C8).

15 7. Appliance according to claim 6, characterized in that the contact (C7) for data In/Out is coupled to a buffer circuit (IC1), and after amplification by the buffer circuit (IC1) is coupled to a DIN contact (DIN) as well as to a receive contact of a RS32 internal interface.

20 8. Appliance according to one of the preceding claim 4 to 7, characterized in that the appliance (1), after insertion of a smart card (S1), provides a smart card activation with a reset (S2), and in a further step, when the answer to the reset is negative (S3), the appliance (1) provides a test mode initialisation (S5) for a test with a computer (3) via a test adapter (2) to be inserted into the smart card reader (4).

30 9. Appliance according to one of the preceding claims 4 to 8, characterized in that the appliance (1) is a digital set-top box or a digital satellite receiver and the method for testing of the appliance is a Factory Functional Test or an aftersales diagnostics test.

New Claims 1 - 9
(Shall replace all present claims)

1. Method for testing an appliance (1) having a smart card reader (4) for an operation with a smart card
5 by using a test adapter (2) being inserted into the smart card reader (4) for testing of the appliance (1),
the test adapter (2) having contacts (C1 - C8) being used as an interface to the smart card reader (4), and using a contact (C6) of the smart card reader (4) as a serial interface for testing of the appliance (1), which is not used by the appliance (1) during operation with a smart card, **wherein**
10 one of the smart card contacts (C6) used for testing of the appliance (1) is the smart card contact for the programming voltage VPP, said contact (C6) being used as an input for transmit signals in accordance with a RS 232 serial port.
15
20 2. Method according to claim 2, **characterized in** that the test adapter (2) is coupled via a cable (10) to a computer (3), and that as a further smart card contact (C7) for testing of the appliance (1) a contact for data in/out (C7) is used, for operation of the test adapter (2) as a serial interface in connection with the computer (3).
25
30 3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the appliance (1) is a digital set-top box or a digital satellite receiver and the method for testing of the appliance is a Factory Functional Test or an aftersales diagnostics test.
35 4. Appliance with a smart card reader (4) for an operation with a smart card, **characterized in** that one contact (C6) of the smart card reader (4), which is

not used by the appliance (1) during normal operation with a smart card, is being used as a serial port for testing of the appliance (1).

5 5. Appliance according to claim 4, **characterized in that** one of the smart card contacts (C6) used for testing of the appliance (1) is the smart card contact for the programming voltage VPP.

10 6. Appliance according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the contacts used for testing of the appliance (1) are a supply voltage input (C1), the programming voltage VPP (C6), a data In/Out contact (C7) and ground (C8).

15 7. Appliance according to claim 6, **characterized in that** the contact (C7) for data In/Out is coupled to a buffer circuit (IC1), and after amplification by the buffer circuit (IC1) is coupled to a DIN contact (DIN) as well as to a receive contact of a RS32 internal interface.

20 8. Appliance according to one of the preceding claim 4 to 7, **characterized in that** the appliance (1), after insertion of a smart card (S1), provides a smart card activation with a reset (S2), and in a further step, when the answer to the reset is negative (S3), the appliance (1) provides a test mode initialisation (S5) for a test with a computer (3) via a test adapter (2) to be inserted into the smart card reader (4).

25 30 9. Appliance according to one of the preceding claims 4 to 8, **characterized in that** the appliance (1) is a digital set-top box or a digital satellite receiver and the method for testing of the appliance is a Factory Functional Test or an aftersales diagnostics test.